

14 January 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM : John F. Blake
Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT: Review of Mr. Sorensen's Draft Confirmation Statement

1. At approximately 8:00 A.M., Friday, 14 January 1977, [REDACTED] contacted me on the following matter. Mr. Sorensen had completed the previous evening a draft confirmation hearing statement. He had asked that it be reviewed by selected senior officers of the Agency and their comments be given to him. [REDACTED] told me he had made Messrs. Bush and Knoche, as well as [REDACTED] aware of this matter.

2. I asked [REDACTED] to immediately send me a copy of the statement as well as having other copies available for members of the 9:00 A.M. Meeting. I further told him I would think through an area of propriety that was on my mind on this issue.

3. The 9:00 A.M. group was convened as an ad hoc session of those present. I informed them of Mr. Sorensen's request and established the following ground rules, which met with approval of the collective body:

a. We would address ourselves only to institutional matters, i.e., correct any factual errors or present advice if we felt his portrayal of institutional positions should be reconsidered.

b. Grammatical changes would be accepted as a service.

c. We should not address ourselves to any matters in the statement that bore on his personal philosophy, explanations of any past acts or positions he had taken, etc.

d. We would meet as a body of equals and decisions would be approved by a consensus.

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4. In previous discussion between [REDACTED] and myself it was agreed that [REDACTED] would furnish separate statement to Mr. Sorensen. STATINTL

8. The meeting was conducted in the frame of reference discussed above and concluded at 10:00 A.M. About six professional observations were made that were to be relayed to Mr. Sorensen. At the conclusion of the meeting all copies of the draft statement, with the exception of Mr. Cary's copy, were reclaimed and returned [REDACTED]

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John F. Blake